

Message Text

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ACTION OC-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ISO-00 CCO-00 SY-07 /019 W

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P 031532Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5867

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0129

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACOM SY

SUBJ: DAMASCUS COMMUNICATIONS

1. DUE LACK SECURE STORAGE FACILITIES, SCOTES AND PARTY HAVE NOT TAKEN OTP WITH THEM AND THUS WILL BE UNABLE SEND OR RECEIVE CLASSIFIED TELEGRAMS UNTIL ARRIVAL RCO, SY PERSONNEL, AND TDY COMMUNICATOR NOW SCHEDULED, IF SYRIANS AGREE, FOR SATURDAY, JAN 5. RCO WILL ACT AS NON-PRO COURIER AND WILL TAKE OTP AND OTHER MATERIAL WITH HIM.

2. SHOULD THERE BE NEED TRANSMIT CLASSIFIED TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC PRIOR LATE SATURDAY, IT WILL BE BY COURIER BETWEEN DAMASCUS/BEIRUT.

3. BASED ON DISCUSSION SCOTES, AND AGAIN IF SYRIANS AGREE, EMBASSY PLANS START TWICE WEEKLY NON-PRO COURIER RUNS TO DAMASCUS ON TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

4 *EPENDENT AGAIN ON RESULTS SCOTES CONVERSATIONS WITH SYRIANS, RCO WILL ENDEAVOR EXPEDITE OBTAINING LEASED COMMUNICATIONS LINE BUT JANUARY 7 NEXT WORKDAY IN SYRIA. WILL ALSO INVESTIGATE TELEX AS MEANS ESTABLISHING QUICK LINE COMMUNICATIONS BEIRUT.

5. IN VIEW ABOVE, EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC FOR DAMASCUS BE KEPT ABSOLUTE MINIMUM UNTIL LEASED LINE AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES AVAILABLE.
BUFFUM

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